

the Milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O.Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

November, 2005

Amateur Radio Antenna "CC&R Bill" Reintroduced in Congress

New York Congressman Steve Israel has reintroduced legislation that could make it easier for radio amateurs living in communities with deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) to erect suitable antennas. Arkansas Congressman Mike Ross, WD5DVR, signed aboard as an original cosponsor of the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" (HR 3876). ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, who attended Israel's public announcement of the bill September 19 on Long Island, pointed out the Amateur Radio volunteers always fill the gap after other communication systems fail in an emergency or disaster. He notes the bill's introduction comes in the immediate aftermath of positive media coverage of Amateur Radio's response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

ARRL Calls on FCC to Shut Down Virginia BPL System

In support of Amateur Radio complaints of interference, the ARRL today formally asked the FCC to instruct the City of Manassass, Virginia, to shut down its broadband over power line (BPL) system. Communication Technologies (COMTek) operates the BPL system over the municipally owned electric power grid. The League says the facility has been the target of unresolved interference complaints dating back at least to early 2004, none of which has resulted "in any action or even interest" on the part of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) staff. In the meantime, the ARRL goes on to say, interference to local Amateur Radio stations continues.

"The Manassass system currently causes harmful interference, and it is not compliant with applicable FCC Part 15 regulations, including Section 15.5," the ARRL said in a 16-page filing to the OET and the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. "Whatever actions either Manassass Power or Communication Technologies Inc might have taken to relieve the problem have not been successful, and it persists to the present time. This is precisely the situation in which the system must be shut down, pending successful resolution of the severe interference."

Two years ago, the ARRL put Manassass officials on notice that the League would act on behalf of its members to ensure full compliance with FCC regulations once the city's BPL system, then in the trial stage, started up.

The ARRL and the complaining Manassass radio amateurs—George Tarnovsky, K4GVT, Donald Blasdell, W4HJL, and William South, N3OH—cite interference so severe that "no communications can be conducted in the amateur allocations subject to interference," said the ARRL, which accused the city of "stonewalling in the face of repeated complaints."

"The parties cannot be said to be working this out cooperatively, since the City of Manassass and its BPL operator are currently in full denial," the League said.

Correspondence and reports from Tarnovsky, Blasdell and South outlining repeated contacts with the BPL operator and a lack of effective resolution—and even public denial—of the interference, accompanied the League's filing. All three hams suggested city officials and COMTek were not acting in good faith in addressing the interference, which, Tarnovsky said, goes back to the very first Manassass BPL installations.

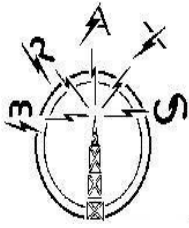
"They continue to publicly deny the interference issues at every opportunity without taking corrective action," Tarnovsky said in a letter to OET's James Burtle, referring to Manassass officials. The radio amateurs said efforts by the BPL operator to "notch" band segments have proven ineffective. "Our continued monitoring of the Manassass BPL system has shown they continuously open the notches and/or increase signal levels, subsequently interfering with licensed services again," he asserted. "This can only lead to one conclusion—they are not taking the interference issue seriously."

South noted this week that the BPL interference recorded to date occurred prior to any large-scale BPL deployment by Manassass. He speculated how much worse the interference will be when the system has 9000 subscribers instead of the current 900.

Field tests conducted not only by Manassass radio amateurs but by the US Department of the Navy established that the city's BPL system "was an interference generator at distances of hundreds of feet from the modems on overhead power lines," the ARRL wrote. "It was also, incidentally, determined that the system was susceptible to interference from nearby radio transmitters operating between 4 and 20 MHz."

[Full Story on [ARRL website](#)]

See also Pennsylvania Utility Story, Page 8



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The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.

Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Some Thoughts

Two very special occasions . One, Jeremy Bair, K2ORX gave a fantastic presentation on IRLP, complete with demonstrations, at the October BRATS meeting. We had an excellent turnout and hope to have more "special" meetings. Thanks, Jeremy! On a sadder note, we note the passing of Lon, WA3DDR, one of the true icons of The BRATS, I am reminded of that meeting at the Science Center when we needed a new antenna for the BRATS repeater. We passed the hat; When we collected \$46, we passed the hat again and got the needed \$100 or so . The hat was Lon's grey fedora. How I remember him sporting the gray fedora at many meetings, hamfests and activities. We will truly miss him.

73, Mayer, W3GXX

The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc. P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and a non-profit corporation in the State of Maryland. We belong to and support the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

home page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>

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InfoLine: 410- 461-0086

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD.

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BRATS Repeaters

BRATS Linked Repeater System:

WB3DZO: 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

BRATS Stand-alone repeaters:

443.350+

BRATS Packet Network Nodes

W3GXT-5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

BRATS ATV Repeater System:

W3WCQ: inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS Weekly Nets

Mon 9 pm Traffic and Info Net, W3GXX

Tues 9 pm BRATS Horsetraders Net, Grant, KA3CEA

Wed 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Fri 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV (Note change from Monday to Friday)

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, W3WGXX

Sat 1:20 The BRATS Answer Men:
W3WVV and N3GXH

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through 12/05:

KA3IDB, W3ZQI, K3RGG, KD7OQT, KB3FIF

Through 12/06:

N3WJH, N3YI, KB3KYM, KB3LJM, KC3FI

REGULAR BRATS MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of each month,
7:30 pm, at the Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Rd, Pikesville

Next BRATS Meetings

Tuesday, November 8

PSK 31 Demonstration

Tuesday, December 13

BRATS Annual Elections and Holiday Party

DUES :

Regular Membership: \$15

Retired/Disabled/Student: \$10

Entire Family of hams: \$20

SILENT KEY

*Alonzo (Lon) Tyler, WA3DDR
October 16, 1919 – October 1, 2005*

Lon Tyler, one of the founding members of The BRATS and long-time active member passed away on Saturday, October 1. Lon was a 25-year employee of McCormick, Inc. and was often heard on the repeater during his stint as a security guard there after his retirement. Lon was also an auxiliary firefighter with the Baltimore Fire Department and an active member of Army MARS.

We will miss his bright, cheerful countenance ...

Scott Redd, K0DQ, sworn in as National Counterterrorism Center Director

Well-known DXer and contester John S. "Scott" Redd, K0DQ, has been sworn in as the first director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). Vice President Dick Cheney presided over a ceremonial swearing-in September 12, at which Redd was accompanied by his wife, Donna, and several family members. President George W. Bush announced June 10 that he was tapping Redd, 61, to direct the new center. Redd officially assumed his new duties August 1. A former commander of US naval forces in the Middle East and a 36-year Navy veteran, Redd, who holds the rank of Admiral, was executive director of the Silberman-Robb presidential commission on US intelligence failures in Iraq. Commission co-chairs Judge Laurence A. Silberman and former Sen Charles Robb were among several dignitaries also on hand for the ceremony. Redd earlier served as deputy administrator and chief operating officer of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, for which he received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. Redd pledged to carry out the mission of the NCTC "with determination, with integrity, and to the very best of my abilities." A native of Sidney, Iowa, Redd is a 1966 graduate of the US Naval Academy and a Fulbright Scholar.

Some Priuses recalled for software glitch

Toyota is voluntarily recalling about 75,000 of its much-touted Prius hybrid sedans to fix a computer software glitch that could cause the car's gasoline engine to shut down. The action, covering about half of the 2004 and 2005 gas-electric hybrids built so far, comes after the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it will close an investigation into the problem that eventually resulted in 428 complaints. No accidents or injuries resulted. "We're satisfied that what they're proposing to do will take care of the problem," NHTSA spokesman Rae Tyson said. The probe began in May after owners reported cars going haywire — warning lights on the dashboard would suddenly all flash and the gasoline engine would die, Toyota said. The driver was usually able to get the car off of the road on electric power alone and restart it. It was a rare bit of trouble for a car that has become Toyota's symbol of environmental success. The gas-electric power plant saves fuel and barely pollutes — without major sacrifices in performance. Prius' problem was traced to a software bug in the car's computer brain, called an electronic control module. Because most new cars have similar systems, repairing the glitch is "fairly routine and not related to the hybrid system itself," said Toyota spokesman Xavier Dominicus. In some cases, technicians will add grease to seal a transaxle connector that could have caused the same problems. The fix takes about two hours. The "special service campaign," as Toyota terms the action, covers Priuses built from Aug. 4, 2003, through Feb. 10, 2005. Owners who aren't sure if their vehicle is covered can call Toyota at 800-331-4331. Toyota says it will mail notices to affected owners later this month.

Thanks, Mike, N3EZD for fixing the repeater!!!

Two European airlines to get cellphone system

Two European airlines will allow passengers late next year to use their own cellphones on commercial flights within western Europe, a Geneva-based technology firm said Tuesday. TAP Air Portugal and British carrier bmi both have agreed to introduce OnAir's voice and text service for cellphones in separate three-month trial runs, Chief Executive George Cooper said. The planes — which will be the first to allow passengers to make and receive calls with their own cellphones while onboard — will give OnAir the chance to assess its service ahead of its general release slated for 2007, he said. "With both airlines, initially there will be a couple of airplanes — two or three airplanes — equipped with this system," Cooper told The Associated Press from Germany. "During that three months, we'll all be evaluating how it's going, what the usage is, how we handle the crew issues and so on." OnAir's system will be used by TAP on its Airbus 321 model and by bmi on its Airbus 320s, both single-aisle planes primarily used for flights within western Europe. Users of mobile phones and other handheld wireless devices with roaming capability will be able to make and receive calls using a base station within the airplane. They will be allowed to turn their phones on after the plane reaches 10,000 feet, when other electronic devices such as portable music players and laptops are permitted, Cooper said. Mobile phones are banned on existing aircraft for fear that they might interfere with a plane's navigation system as they attempt to log on to terrestrial networks. OnAir's mobile communications system is based within the plane, which it says ensures that cellphones and other devices operate at lower transmission power and thus avoid affecting avionics. The company hopes to clear all regulatory hurdles for air traffic within Europe at some point next year. Cooper said the surcharge for mobile phone use will be competitive with international roaming rates, at about \$2.30–\$2.50 per minute. A text message should cost about 50 cents to send or receive. Airline bmi, a subsidiary of British Midland, flies primarily to destinations in Britain and western Europe and is London Heathrow Airport's second-largest flight operator. TAP, Portugal's state-owned airline, flies to 43 destinations in 25 countries.

ARRL Announces 2005 Toy Drive for Hurricane Victims

Patti Loveless, KD4WUJ has agreed to serve as honorary chairperson for the 2005 Toy Drive. Send new unwrapped toys for children ages 1–14, to arrive prior to November 24 to: ARRL Toy Drive, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd, Suite 12, Memphis, TN 38117–7125 . If you would like to send cash instead of a toy, send a check to ARRL Toy Drive, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 .

Southwest bars woman over T-shirt obscenity

A Washington state woman Airlines for barring her from one of its flights because of a message on her T-shirt. Lorrie Heasley, a lumber saleswoman, was wearing a shirt bearing the pictures of President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice along with a phrase using a swear word that mimicked the recent film, Meet the Fockers, the Reno Gazette-Journal reports. Heasley, who wore the shirt without incident on the first leg of her flight from Los Angeles to Reno, says she wore it as a "gag" to amuse her parents, who were to pick her up at the airport in Portland, Ore. "I just thought it was hilarious," said Heasley, who felt she should have the right to wear it. "I have cousins in Iraq and other relatives going to war," she said. "Here we are trying to free another country and I have to get off an airplane in midflight over a T-shirt. That's not freedom." But Southwest officials say their hand was forced when several passengers complained about the shirt and its obscene wording. Heasley and her husband ultimately rented a car in Reno and drove to Seattle. She says she has contacted lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union and that she wants Southwest to pay for the last leg of her trip and for expenses associated with for the drive from Reno to Portland.

0\$, round trip ? now that's a fare sale!

About 100 customers on Independence Air got an even better deal than they bargained for during the airline's most recent fare sale earlier this week. That's because the airline was hit with a computer glitch while the new sale fares were being loaded into the system, according to The Washington Post . That allowed customers to nab \$0 fares -- yes, \$0 -- to any of the airline's 46 destinations. The free tickets were available for about an hour before company officials realized the mistake. "Nothing like this has ever happened before," says Independence spokesman Rick DeLisi, though he added the Washington-based discounter would honor the tickets. As for the fares sale, tickets were supposed to start at \$98 round trip (plus taxes and fees).

PCSAT2 Enabled for 1200 and 9600 Baud Digipeating Operation

The PCSAT2 packet system is enabled for both 1200 and 9600 baud digipeating, and it can also do cross- BAUD digipeating. That is 1200 up and 9600 down or 9600 up and 1200 down. We had no specific application in mind, but it is there for experimentation. For 1200 or 9600 use the path VIA ARISS. For cross- BAUD operation use the path VIA XBAUD. The easiest way to experiment is to use either the Kantronics KPC-9612+ TNC or the Kenwood D7 or D700 that can both easily switch between 1200 and 9600 baud. experiment with the shortest TXD delay you can get by with at 9600 baud. Typically for one-at-a-time packets like APRS, there is not much advantage for operating at 9600 baud, because the TXD delay is often as long or longer than the data, so the actual throughput advantage on 9600 is more like a factor of 2 than 8. Perhaps the value of operating at 9600 baud would be in downloading Mail from the PCSAT2 PBBS. That is the only time when all the delays will be amortized and 9600 baud would give you a significant throughput advantage. Users are welcome to use the PCSAT2 digipeater for experimentation. Uplink is 145.825 Downlink 435.275 +/- 10 KHz Doppler DIGIpeater call is ARISS for 1200 or 9600 DIGIpeater call is XBAUD for cross-baud PBBS callsign is MAIL The Kenwood D7 and D700 can do either 1200 or 9600 and on either band, but not both baud rates at the same time. The KPC-9612+ can transmit either 1200 or 9600, but because it is dual port, it can receive both at the same time.

ALL ABOUT PSK 31

What is it? How does it work? Can I see it in action? Yes, just come to the next BRATS meeting, Tuesday, November 8, 7:30 PM at the Pikesville Library. Thanks, Les, W3GXT

GPS device helps jail killer

The electronic eyes of a Calgary-based CSI Wireless GPS tracking device may not have witnessed the murder, but they helped put an American killer behind bars last week. The tracking technology in a rented Lincoln Navigator was a crucial element that placed a New York City man at the scene of the crime in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The SUV's global positioning system allowed police to retrace Jimmy (Crush) Davis's path, punching holes in his story along the way. Davis, 30, pleaded guilty in Pennsylvania's Luzerne County Court on Sept. 19 to third-degree homicide and other charges in the shooting death of 42-year-old Sheryl Spiros in February 2004 in her apartment. He was sentenced to 19 to 40 years in jail. "When we started, we had no leads," first assistant district attorney Jacqueline Carroll told the Herald. "GPS played a very big role here, placing this person at the scene. It was going to lend a lot of corroboration and credibility to our witnesses who otherwise may not have been accepted as readily. "The crux of it was really the GPS system. We started calling it 'the black box,' " Carroll said Wednesday. CSI Wireless manufactures tracking devices that help businesses keep tabs on vehicle fleets. The device tracked the movements of the SUV that Davis drove back and forth across three states before he was arrested in July. The company sent one of its experts to help the Luzerne County district attorney's office put the case together in May. "It's just like that show CSI. You can merge all the technologies together and use it as a crime-fighting tool," said Ramsaran, an admitted crime television show fan. The real-life crime drama took place on Feb. 12, 2004, when Davis shot Spiros to death and started a small fire in her apartment, police say. GPS points on a map showed investigators that the ignition in the Lincoln Navigator parked outside Spiros's home was started one minute before Wilkes-Barre firefighters responded to the fire. The tracker data recorded the SUV leaving the scene of the crime, travelling along the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstate 80 into New Jersey. Police were able to pinpoint hotels he had checked into along the way and stops at convenience stores. "We pulled the surveillance tapes, and, lo and behold, there he was walking inside," said Carroll.

Kodak ships computer-free wireless camera

After a summer-long delay, Eastman Kodak Co. has begun shipping the first digital camera with Wi-Fi wireless technology to e-mail photos directly to friends and family without a computer. Users of the new EasyShare-One, priced at \$599, can send photos directly through a Wi-Fi transmitter at home or work, or pay \$4.99 per month to connect the camera with any of T-Mobile USA's 6,000 hot spots at stores, airports, hotels and other establishments. However, subscribers to other Wi-Fi services will not be able to connect an EasyShare-One to those wireless accounts. The EasyShare-One's liquid-crystal screen contains an easy-to-use instruction menu: Shutterbugs can either e-mail pictures and video clips or post them on Kodak's online photography site. Though the photos are actually routed through the Kodak site, users can set up their accounts so that the messages appear to arrive from a personal e-mail address. Camera-equipped cellphones already offer photo-sharing capabilities but typically produce low-resolution images. The new Kodak camera boasts 4 megapixels of resolution, 3x optical zoom, storage room for up to 1,500 photos and a 3-inch touch screen — big enough for the camera to double as a portable album. The EasyShare-One, first unveiled in January, was supposed to hit the market in June but ran into engineering, marketing and other logistical glitches. In the meantime, Japan's Nikon Corp. looked like it might steal Kodak's thunder by shipping its own Wi-Fi camera to stores last month. But while the Nikon P1 can wirelessly transfer pictures to a computer, the Kodak model remains unique in its potential to bypass the hassle of downloading. "It's the next step forward in cameras. No more worrying about plugging in the cable," said photography analyst Ed Lee of InfoTrends, a research firm in Weymouth, Mass.

Singapore Amateurs Have Immediate Access to 7.1-7.2 MHz

Effective October 3, 2005, the Singapore licensing authority has approved the allocation for the 7.1 – 7.2 MHz band for Singapore amateurs with immediate effect. (WIA News)

EchoStar rolls out portable media player

EchoStar Communications Corp., which operates the Dish Network satellite TV service, introduced a portable media player Tuesday that displays television programs or movies, plays music and stores digital photographs. The PocketDish comes in three sizes offering screens up to 7 inches and a maximum hard-drive capacity of 40 gigabytes. Retail prices range from \$329 for the portable media player to \$599 for the top-of-the-line media recorder. The players have the capability to record video, music and data from televisions, computers, DVD players and camcorders, said Mark Jackson, president of EchoStar Technologies Corp. In addition, the PocketDish offers a quick transfer from certain Dish Network digital video recorders, downloading an hour of programming in about five minutes, he said. EchoStar's stock dipped 3 cents to \$29 in early trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Based in Englewood, Colorado, EchoStar's Dish Network is the nation's second-largest satellite TV provider with about 11.5 million customers.

Civilian Space Traveler "Phones Home" via Ham Radio

During his eight days in space, Greg Olsen, KC2ONX, the International Space Station's third civilian space traveler, touched base via ham radio with students at three high schools, including his alma mater. He spoke October 5 with Princeton High School in Princeton, New Jersey, October 6 with Ft Hamilton High School in Brooklyn, New York, and October 7 with Ridgefield Park High School in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. Olsen, who lives in Princeton, was born in Brooklyn and graduated from Ridgefield Park High School. One Princeton student wanted to know how much less time would pass on the ISS than on Earth due to relativity.

Space tourist and U.S.-Russian crew back on Earth

ARKALYK, Kazakhstan — U.S. millionaire scientist Gregory Olsen (KC2ONX) and a two-man, Russian-American crew returned from the international space station to Earth early Tuesday in a swift, bone-jarring descent. The touchdown of the Russian Soyuz space capsule on the cold, wind-swept steppes of northern Kazakhstan, where Russia's manned-space facilities are based, ended the third trip by a private citizen to the orbiting laboratory. The descent from the station orbiting approximately 250 miles above the Earth took about 3 ½ hours. Four search planes and 17 helicopters scrambled to meet the spacecraft, and search-and-rescue crewmembers helped the men out of the capsule, sat them in chairs and draped fur-lined sleeping bags over their shoulders to ward off the early dawn chill. Rescuers reported that the crew's condition was "good," according to Russian Mission Control at Korolyov outside Moscow. Olsen, 60, appeared unaffected by the gut-wrenching trip home. He grinned ebulliently, ate a green pear and drank water with gusto as he chatted with ground personnel. "I feel great," he said in both English and Russian.

Constipated? Go to a museum

Viewing and discussing art not only soothes the soul, it also helps cure ills like high blood pressure and constipation, a Swedish researcher said on Friday. Britt-Maj Wikstroem of the Ersta Skoendal University College in Stockholm had 20 women of around 80 years of age gather once a week for four months to discuss different works of art. "The result was positive. Their attitudes became more positive, more creative, their blood pressure went in the right direction ... and they used fewer laxatives," she told AFP. A control group of 20 women who met to discuss their hobbies and interests once a week instead of art did not experience the same effects, she pointed out. "There was a significant difference between the groups," she said, adding that the art group had continued to show positive effects many months after their last discussion. Wikstroem has been studying the effects of art on people in different settings since the 1980s, including a study of how museum art hung in offices impacts on the employees working there. "It's all about using art in a structured way," she said.

Pennsylvania Utility Cites Unfavorable Economics in Ending BPL Trial

PPL Broadband announced this week that it's terminating its broadband over power line (BPL) experiment in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. According to media reports, the company is citing the high cost of a full-scale BPL rollout and competition from cable and DSL service in the region as the reason for the shutdown. Approximately 300 households participating in the trial were said to be paying \$40 a month for the high-speed Internet service. Although interference was reported by Amateur Radio stations in some of PPL Broadband's BPL service area, PPL did not cite the interference problems as one of the reasons it dropped out of the BPL race.

Transpacific reception of Canadian amateur LF signals confirmed

Low frequency enthusiast Steve McDonald, VA7SL, reports the first confirmed transpacific reception of Canadian Amateur Radio LF (137 kHz/2200 meters) signals occurred October 4. "The slow-speed (QRSS) CW signals of VA7LF (see photo of antennas) were confirmed heard near Wellington, New Zealand, at the Wellington Amateur Radio Club station at Quartz Hill," McDonald told ARRL. "Signals from the ZM2E club station were heard in Canada as well, but propagation was not of sufficient duration to enable a QSO to be completed." Located on South Pender Island, British Columbia, VA7LF was operated by McDonald, Lorne Tilley, VE7TIL, and Martin MacGregor, VE7MM. At the helm of the Quartz Hill station were Bob Vernall, ZL2CA, and Mike McAlevey, ZL4OL. Both stations operated on 137 kHz using dual-frequency CW QRSS120, in which elements are two minutes long. VA7LF was running approximately 1 W ERP, while ZM2E was at the 5W ERP level. "Propagation conditions were generally poor during the three-night test period," McDonald said. The next scheduled transpacific tests will be next spring. ZM2E and UA0LE hold the current Amateur Radio two-way LF world record at a distance of 10,311 km. The distance between VA7LF and ZM2E is approximately 11,700 km.

TWO METER MADNESS

This July has seen some amazing 2 sporadic E openings on two meters. One such phenomena was witnessed by your reporter 4X1MK around 6 PM on the 4th ... LZ1ZX was heard making an FM contact with a mobile station on the Tel-Aviv repeater ... yet the Bulgarian station was operating SIMPLEX on the output frequency of the R7 machine, and the mobiles were hearing his signal directly! I QSYed with him to a simplex frequency where he implored me to come on 144.300 MHz SSB and CW, even tho' I had only a miniscule 5 watts on those modes ... and we established initial contact there while I was still on half a watt, albeit it with a good 16 element array. Further contacts were made with many Bulgarian stations, a Romanian and a Hungarian station was heard. I would have continued, yet the supper call came on this end. Shalom 4X1UN, also operating 5 watts on 2 meters has reported many interesting sporadic E DX VHF contacts ... great fun! As usual in the summer we are enjoying the great VHF and UHF tropo ducting working all over the eastern Mediterranean including 500 Km contacts up to the new R5 repeater near Adana, Turkey

Amateur Radio Operators Copy MRO at 14 Million Kilometers Distance

The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, presently enroute to Mars in an interplanetary orbit 14 million kilometers from Earth, activated its Electra UHF Relay system operating at 437.1 MHz on September 21 and September 22. Andy, N9AB successfully detected this weak signal using his amateur radio station and DSP software to perform FFT analysis. Andy has written a very nice report on his detection of MRO which can be found on-line at:

http://members.verizon.net/~km1p/N9AB_MRO_Report.pdf Viktor, OE1VKW reports his success at receiving the MRO at: <http://cacophonix.nt.tuwien.ac.at/~oe1vkw/MRO/rcv22905.htm>

[ANS thanks Andy, N9AB, Joe, KM1P, and Viktor, OE1VKW for the above information]

ARRL DX BULLETIN**WA7BNM Contest Calendar**

- Oct. 22:
CIS DX Contest
- Oct. 22–23:
ARCI Fall QSO Party
50 MHz Fall Sprint
- Oct 29–30
CQWW DX Contest, SSB
eXtreme CW WW Challenge
10–10 Int'l Fall Contest, CW
- Oct. 30:
FISTS Coast to Coast Contest
- Nov. 5
IPARC Contest, CW
- Nov 5–6
Ukrainian DX Contest
- Nov 5–7
ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
NA Collegiate Champ., CW
IPARC Contest, SSB
- Nov 6
High Speed CW Club Contest
DARC 10–meter Digital Contest
- Nov 12–13
WAE DX Contest, RTTY
JIDX Phone Contest
SARL Field Day Contest
OK/OM DX Contest, CW
LZ DX Contest
- Nov 19–20
EUCW Frat. QSO Party
All–Austrian 160 Mtr. Contest
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW
- Nov 26–27
CQ WW DX Contest, CW

MAURITANIA, 5T.

Jean is QRV as 5T0JL and has been active on 80 meters around 0500z. QSL via ON8RA.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6.

Abdullah, A61Q has been active on 30 meters around 1530z. QSL via EA7FTR.

CANADA, VE.

Mike, VE6AO is QRV as CK6AO to celebrate Alberta's 100th anniversary, and can often be found on 20 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

SINGAPORE, 9V.

The Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society has announced that Singapore amateurs have been allocated on a secondary basis access to 7100 to 7200 kHz. This supplements their existing allocation on 7000 to 7100 kHz.

HUTAN, A5.

Harvey, A52SY has been active on 20 meters SSB around 1300z. He has also been active on 40 meters CW around 1700 to 1800z. QSL via ON4ON.

THAILAND, HS.

Members of the RAST radio club are QRV as HS0T until December 31 to commemorate the birth of the son of the Crown Prince and Princess. They have been authorized the use of 160 and 80 meters, as well as the newer bands, in addition to their regular HF bands. QSL via HS6NDK.

ANTARCTICA.

Alan, R1ANC has been QRV on 30 meters around 0600z. Meanwhile, Mike, R1ANT has been active on 30 meters as well around the same time. QSL via operators' instructions.

SOUTH SHETLANDS.

Alex, R1ANF has been active on 17 meters using CW around 2130z. QSL via operator's instructions.

WESTERN SAHARA, S0.

Mahfoud, S01MZ has been active on 80 meters SSB around 0500z and then on 17 meters SSB between 1230 and 1330z. QSL via EA1BT.

SVALBARD, JW.

Hugo, LA5YJ is QRV as JW5YJ and has been active on 30 meters around 0015z. QSL to home call. Meanwhile, Vegard, LA9LMA is QRV as JW9LMA and has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 2300 to 0200z. QSL to home call.

DODECANESE, SV5.

Al, SV5/DJ5AA and Wolfgang, SV5/DL3DRN can usually be found on 30 to 15 meters between 2200 and 0400z. QSL to home calls.

GIBRALTAR, ZB.

ZB2FK has been QRV on 160 meters around 0100z. QSL direct to home call.

Approximately 20,000 Basic–Only Canadian amateurs gain access to HF bands

Industry Canada reports that since the new regulations were implemented on July 30, 2005, 19,995 Canadian amateurs who held a Basic Only certificate before April 2, 2002 have been granted access to the HF bands. There remain 2450 amateur operators in Canada that do not possess HF privileges. This does not imply that they have not met the 80% pass mark but that as of today, Industry Canada has had no requests from these individuals for HF privileges.

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Hamfests and Conferences

Sunday, October 30:

Westminster, MD. CCARC's Mason-Dixon Hamfest. Carroll County Agr. Center, Westminster. (145.41/R) Shirley, KB3KYJ, 301-829-8791

BARC MINIFEST

The BARC Minifest will take place on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, 5 to 10 PM at the Timonium Fairgrounds

March 25-26, 2006:

Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest, (BARC Hamfest) Timonium Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD, 410-HAM-FEST, (146.67/R)

NOTICE: If you know of any hamfests or VE Exams not listed here, please let us know by sending us an email ... Thanks!

Field Day 2005 results now available to ARRL members

ARRL members may now access the ARRL Field Day 2005 Web report and Scores database on the ARRL Web site. The December issue of QST will include a full report on ARRL Field Day 2005. Non-members will be able to download a PDF file detailing the results on or about November 1. For more information, contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND.

Singapore Amateurs Have Immediate Access to 7.1-7.2 MHz

Effective October 3, 2005, the Singapore licensing authority has approved the allocation for the 7.1 - 7.2 MHz band for Singapore amateurs with immediate effect. (WIA News)

NEXT BRATS MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 8

Tuesday, December 13

**IF YOUR DUES ARE DUE,
DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!
DO IT NOW! Thanks!**

milliwatt swap shop

ads are free and get results!

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email
to mayerzimmerman@verizon.net

FOR SALE: The famous W3GXX low band station. ICOM 730 xcvr. , PS 15 p/s, Bencher BY2, MFJ 900 EconoTuner, MFJ 481 Grandmaster; National NC183 rcvr., HyGain 14AVQ. Make reasonable offer for everything. Do it before I donate all the equipment to JHS22. 410-786-6839; w3gxx@verizon.net

FOR SALE: Heathkit HM-102 RF Power Meter with attached antenna selector \$40; ACI AC-20 Linear for 2 meters \$20; Alinco 110 2-meter transceiver can be base or mobile \$100; Ameritorn ATR-15 Antenna tuner 1500 Watt RF, 1.8-30 MHz \$80. Tailtwister Control Box (analog) \$40. All in good working order. Call Jerry, KB3AP, 410-484-2460, kb3ap@netzero.net.

WANTED: Your ad for this space. *MILLIWATT* want ads are free and get results. Send your ad to w3gxx@verizon.net

VE EXAMS

2005 BARC VE Exams

At the BARC Clubhouse:
12360 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mills

Saturdays: Nov 5, 2005

Register at 1 pm, exams at 2 pm

Call Rusty, N3WKE, 410-247-0578 or email n3wke@arrl.net
(Thanks, Russ, N3YI)

2005 Aero Club Exams

At White Marsh Library: Nov 19

Register at 1pm, Exams at 1:30pm

Contact Frank, AC3P 410-687-7209 or email AC3P@arrl.net
(Thanks, Neil, W3ZQI)

Other Club Exams

2nd Saturday, 1 PM, Davidsonville, by AARC. Register 12 noon.
Bob, AA3RR, 410-437-8193

3rd Saturday, 9 AM, Laurel, by LARC, 384 Main St. John Creel,
WB3GXW, 301-572-5124.

4th Tuesday, 6 PM, Linthicum. At Historical Electronics Museum.
Harold, WB4OGP, 410-757-0493(h); 410-712-6829(w)

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Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email
to mayerzimmerman@verizon.net

FOR SALE: Heathkit Security Sentinel GD-3810, \$20. Kenwood MC520DM hand mike, back lite, numbers, \$20. Power Kraft table saw w/ base and rollers, \$75. Companion jig saw, 15" throat, \$40. New 3-ton Olympia chain hoist, \$75. WWII hi-power antenna tuner, VAC variables, roller inductor, \$120. Azden DM headphones, new in box, \$15. Telex C1320, \$15. Bush Clevite, \$15. Panasonic adapter BC1031C, \$45. P/S: 13.8VDC @20 amps \$40. Table mount rack cabinet, \$5. Complete UHF repeater system with 2 Motorola Hand-helds, 1 mobile charger, \$150. W2IHY 8-band Audio equalizer, noise gate, \$175. Call Ted, W3OWN, 410-668-5580. Please leave message if you get answering machine.

FOR SALE: ICOM 706MKIIG, ICOM IC 718, Yaesu CPU 2500-r, Kenwood 950sdx, Astron R35A, Mirage B 3016, SGC SG-500 Amp. Palstar WM 150M, Dell P III laptop. Best offer. popularc@hotmail.com or call Ball and Ball in Laurel, 301-490-1587.

WANTED: AC Gilbert erector sets; old, new, large, small, need not be complete. CASH paid. Lewis, 410-296-4874

FOR SALE: ADI AR-146 2-mtr mobile rig. Very dependable, includes mounting bracket, lighter plug adapter, magmount antenna, \$125. Yaesu FT50R dualband 2-mtr/440. Scans from 76 MHz to 999 MHz (less cell). Extra battery, CA-15 charger, ear/throat mike, over shoulder harness, regularly \$330. Sell for \$275. Contact Russ for either or both rigs: n3yi@yahoo.com

WANTED: Your ad for this space. MILLIWATT want ads are free and get results. Send your ad to w3gzk@verizon.net **ATTENTION:** if you do NOT want your ad to run again, please send me an email to that effect. Thanks! mayerzimmerman@verizon.net

VTS – VIDEOTAPING SERVICE

Video/DVD duplications, video tape transferred to DVD. One source up to 2 hours, \$30. Standards, conversions. Call VTS toll free at 1-877-891-1002. BRATS member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS
<http://www.videotapingservice.com>

JADE COMPUTERS, LLC

1009 Ingleside Ave, Baltimore, MD 21228. Phone 419-719-1246; Fax 410-719-9494. Your answer to custom built PC, office and home networking. Reseller for Net Integrity server, cable modem, DSL, webpage design and hosting POS and networking. We do CPR to your CPU. Kid tested, mother approved. Order PC on line: <http://www.jadecomputers.net> email: joed@jadecomputers.us

Antique Radio Repair, Restoration

Eric, WA3TAD, Audio-Visual Service / Retro Radio, 3401 Chestnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211. 410-467-3620; wa3tad@comcast.net

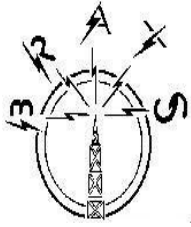
Radio Consignment Shop at Overlea Hobbies

8411 Harford Road, Parkville, 410-665-3622. Home of fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios. Yaesu FT101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heathkit SB-102, National NC-183, more ... Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806

AUDIO CONVERSIONS.

Your records and cassettes converted to CD. High quality A-D conversions of your recordings to digital form. I can also make short run duplications of your CD's for your band or office projects. Call Scott, KB3JQQ at 410-615-2434 or via email at: KB3JQQ@yahoo.com Also, I do operating system reloads and virus/spyware removal. Computer repairs since 1986. A+ certified. <http://home.comcast.net/~convertrecords/>

FOR SALE: Special! ICOM BC-110A battery charger, output DC 12V 200mA, for ICOM T8A or similar, used only twice. Cost \$46 new, plus shipping. Will sell for \$30. Misplaced it, ordered a new one, then found it! Call Mayer, W3GXX, 410-786 or email w3gzk@verizon.net



the Milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O.Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

November 2005

BRATS Public Service

To sign up to participate and help at the next BRATS Public Service activity, please call Ian, N3CVA at 410-303-1412 or email via N3CVA@hotmail.com

To join The BRATS or to renew, *please use the form below!* Thanks!

UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:
http://www.ussc.com/~uarc/utah_atv/utah_atv.html
(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

ATV NETS

Brats Nets:

Wednesday and Thursday, 9 PM:
Rotating Net Control
Friday at 11:45 AM, W3WVV

Homepages

BRATS

<http://www.bratsatv.org>

HATS (Houston ATV Society)

<http://www.hats.stevens.com>

Black Mountain AQTV Repeater

<http://www.w6yx.stanford.edu>

Kent Amateur Radio Society, K3ARS:

<http://www.k3ars.org>

NEXT BRATS MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 8, 7:30 PM
Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 PM
At the Pikesville Library

Other Radio Club Meetings

QCWA

Monday at Noon, Cactus Willie 7315
Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie
3rd Thursday, 1 PM: Old Country Buffet,
Joppa Road at Satyr Hill
Last Wednesday, 1 PM: Denny's Bel Air
Rd at Putty Hill

AARC

1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 PM
Davidsonville Family Rec. Center, Queen
Anne Bridge Rd, Wayson Rd (147.105R)

AMRAD

2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM,
Dolley Madison Library; 1244 Oak Ridge
Ave. McLean, VA (147.21/R)

BARC

1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 PM
12360 Owings Mills Blvd (near
warehouse) Owings Mills, MD (146.67R)

CARA

4th Tuesday,
Gateway Center, Rm 401, 6751 Gateway
Dr. Columbia South off Rt 175
(147.135/R)

BRATS Membership Renewal: Regular=\$15; Retired/Disabled/Student \$10; Family \$20

Name _____	Call Sign _____	BRATS No _____
Address _____	City/State/Zip _____	
Phone _____	Email _____	

MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O.Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282-5915
